Love Lord Bless
Keep Elsie

Nu.6:24-26 The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee
and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.

A benediction and congratulation I favor using for the close of the wedding ceremony. God commanded Moses and Aaron thus to address the children of Israel And what better wish when greeting another or parting from another could one possibly give?

But for a hasty greeting or a hurried farewell it is rather lengthy- too long for hustling Americans. And so I shall endeavor to teach you to say the whole of this blessing with just one word. And I have no less an authority for than Webster's Dictionayy.

Speaking of the dictionary, we do not study it enough. Because of our vagueness of meaning of the words we use we speak a very poor English, very often we speak incorrectly.

But some dictionary definitions make me smile. Webster defines Love thus: "a strong, complex emotion or feeling, inspired by something, as a person or a quality, causing one to apreciate or delight in, and crave the possession or presence of that object."

Imagine telling a love-sick boy that that is what is the matter with him!

Here is another. The definition of "mother"-"a female parent." Whoever thinks of his mother as a female parent!

Well, I supoose that such words as Love and Mother cannot be defined- that is why Webster fails.

But back to our text and to Webster's statement of it in one word. The text. The word-Good-bye. Good-bye is a contraction of "God be with ye".

I. Good-bye is a wish.

We cannot wish a man anything better than the company of God. The presence and consequent blessing of God means more happiness and peace in a home than a big income, elaborate furnishings and swell social functions.

When you wish a friend a "God be with you" you really mean that you wish your friend to be with God.

Abraham Lincoln said,"I am not so much interested in having God on my side as being sure that I am on God's side".

Good-bye is a wish that God Almighty be your companio and counsellor and guide.

~~I often smile at Mrs.F's farewell to her children- "Good-bye and God bless you".~~

II. Good-bye is also a blessing.

I often smile at Mrs.F's farewell to her children "Good-bye and God bless you" That is just what Good-bye is- a God bless you!

Good-bye between loved ones ~~and~~ or between friends is a sacrament- infinitely more than some hurried farewell.

Father's Good-bye.
"We would love each other better if we only understood."

Mother's "Good-byes". To Ed and George. In her Good-bye mother poured all her affection and solicitude and warning.

III. Good-bye is a sob.

The mother in the court-room bidding good-bye to he her boy sentenced for life. Into her Good-bye she pours her disappointment, her heart-ache, her love and her constancy of her mother-soul.

"There is a word, of grief the sounding token;
There is a word bejeweled with bright tears,
The saddest word fond lips have eber spoken;
A little word that breaks the chain of years;
Its utterance must evr bring emotion,
The memories it crystals cannot die,
Tis known in every land, on every ocean-
This called-Good-bye".

b. The old professor bidding farewell to his class.
c.

IV. Good-bye is a prayer.

More than a farewell, more than a wish that God be with you, more than an expression of the deepest emotion- it is a lifting up to the throne of grace our loved one or friend, beseeching the Almighty to protect and guide, to care for and help.

"The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracio unto to; The Lord life up his countenance upon you and give you peace. GOOD-BYE